

# The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

APRIL 2013

First Universalist Society  
Hartland Four Corners  
8 Brownsville Road, Corner Rte. 12  
Hartland, VT 05049

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Jill Crowley, Robert Jaarsma

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## Sunday Services & Religious Education Classes 10 am in the Church

### Sunday Services

**April 7**

**The Ways We Pray**

**Barbara Harlow**

Reflections on the questions, just what IS prayer? and why and how do we do it?

*The collection will benefit Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society.*

**April 14**

**Is Happiness Escapist, or a Valuable Spiritual Practice?**

**Ginny Sassaman**

While pursuing happiness can sometimes be an escapist activity, cultivating deeper levels of happiness can also be a valuable spiritual practice -- especially as it relates to the final clause in our mission, protecting the earth, our home. Ginny Sassaman will share some ways positive psychology research has shown how to raise our individual levels of happiness, and discuss how increased happiness can help us better address the challenges of climate change.

Ginny Sassaman grew up in Central Pennsylvania where she married her high school sweetheart, had two children, and got a BA in communications from Penn State before moving to Washington, D.C. to be Media Communications Director for Common Cause. She later worked for American University and the Women's Legal Defense Fund. Ginny left the D.C. fast track to pursue a fulltime art career as a watercolor painter. In 2001, she and her husband Bob moved to Vermont. In 2006, Ginny returned to school, earning a Master's in Mediation and Applied Conflict Studies at Woodbury College in VT. Since then, she created the position of staff mediator for Home Share Now, co-founded Gross National Happiness USA, and created The Happiness Paradigm Store and Experience in Maple Corner. Today she works as a mediation coach, an artist, a workshop facilitator, and a writer/advocate for happiness at [Happiness-paradigm.wordpress.com](http://Happiness-paradigm.wordpress.com). She also logs many happy hours as a grandmother. She is a member of the Montpelier, Vermont Unitarian Church.

*The collection will benefit Ottauquechee Health Foundation.*

**April 21**

**Earth Day Service**

**Worship Service Circle**

Everyone is invited to bring a poem that inspires our love for the earth.

*The collection will benefit Upper Valley Apple Corps.*

**April 28**

**Annual Intergenerational May Day/Beltane Celebration**

**Paul S. Sawyer**

Come dance around the May Pole and celebrate this energetic Earth-centered ritual of Spring. Bring your rakes and gloves and we'll celebrate the earth even more by cleaning up the church yard after the service!

*The collection will benefit Turning Points Network.*

## OFFERING RECIPIENTS

### APRIL

Our regular collections during Sunday morning worship are dedicated each week to an organization doing good work in our local communities or in society as a whole. Checks for the collection can be made out to "FUSH" and we will consolidate donations to pass on to the organization.

For those wishing to make a pledge payment or a donation specifically to support our congregation's budget you can:

- place your donation in the box on the welcoming table at the back of the sanctuary or
- use the small manila envelopes available on the same table or
- simply mark in the memo line of your check "for FUSH".

#### *April 7— Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society*

Founded in 1915, the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society in Brownsville, VT is one of the oldest Humane Societies in the United States. Following their motto of "improving the lives of people and pets" Lucy Mac offers shelter, adoption, and training programs for pets and the people who love them. As a no-kill shelter, Lucy Mac often cares for animals for months before they are available to be adopted. More information is available at [www.lucymac.org](http://www.lucymac.org)

*continued on pg. 3*

## *From Your Minister*

Paul is on sabbatical until April 28.

### *re: RE*

Wow, the weeks are moving right along and we are into Spring already! Of course, as I write this, we are anticipating another snow storm tomorrow night...we know to wait until after Memorial Day to plant in the garden.

With five weeks in March, we were able to fit in an Easter service with a story and craft activity. We also enjoyed our Guest Artist, Jaxon Morgan, sharing his love of drumming. If you attended the church service that morning, I'm sure you could hear the children learning to drum together with fourteen different beats all in rhythm. At the beginning of the month, Sue Taylor presented a Spirit Play based on a bittersweet true story of two elephants. The children learned about relationships among these amazing animals and started thinking about ways to stop the horrible treatment (and killing) of elephants.

What a busy month: Sara M and Colleen S brought a cheery group over to the Vermont Special Olympics to help with our greater community and diverse people.

Two months left of our regular RE program and then we'll begin our Summer focus which I am very excited about. You'll have to wait to hear more about that!

*Sara  
DRE*



#### April RE Calendar

7	10:00 am	Faith in Action: Green Up
14	10:00 am	RE with Sara and Dave Morin
21	10:00 am	Children's Chapel: Earth Day
28	9:30 am	Children's Choir Practice and Sing
	10:00	Intergenerational Service: May Day



*Offering Recipients cont. from pg. 3*

*April 28— Turning Points Network*

Based in Claremont, NH, Turning Points Network strives to end all forms of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking. Founded in 1977, Turning Points Network serves Sullivan County, NH and surrounding areas and offers emergency shelters, education, support services, advocacy programs for children and victims of abuse. More information is available at [www.free-to-soar.org](http://www.free-to-soar.org).



## *The Board's Broadcast*

A request to find an auditor for the church was published in the previous newsletter, but there was no response. Doug Hart will continue to seek an auditor for the church finances. Worst case may be that we have to pay an independent auditor. We are also seeking an assistant treasurer, to help and backstop Doug.

Doug has set up the direct withdrawal process with Mascoma Bank, which will save us the transaction charge we have been paying for this process previously. We will encourage contributors to sign up for periodic direct withdrawal whenever pledging, as this will make cash flow more predictable.

Currently, the church financial information resides on Doug Hart's personal laptop, which is slow and cumbersome. The Board discussed getting a church laptop to support the treasurer and other church functions. John reported that Chuck Fenton may be able to get a used but well-performing laptop through his business contacts. The board authorized spending up to \$400 for a church laptop to support Doug and hold the financial data; Doug will contact Chuck about this.

The Board reviewed upcoming events; no Board actions seem to be needed.

John has reviewed part of the bylaws pertaining to business meetings, comparing to suggested formats provided by the UUA of Northern New England. This is part of the ongoing process of revising the bylaws to better reflect our organization. Changes proposed are detailed below. Members of the community are invited to participate in the bylaws revision process by sending comments and ideas to the board. This important process should help make the FUSH bylaws better for all members of the church. Further sections of the bylaws will be reviewed in upcoming Board meetings.

The next Board meeting will be on April 1 at 7:00 pm. As always, members are invited to attend Board meetings, and let Board members know about any issue requiring Board attention

### **Proposed Bylaw Changes**

The "annual" and "semiannual" meeting names are changed to "Winter" and "Spring" semiannual meetings. The Winter meeting is held in the first half of December and the Spring meeting in the last half of May. This is to remove the confusion about when the "annual" and "semiannual" meetings occur. The meeting dates are made slightly more flexible, and the actual dates are set by the Board within the guidelines.

*continued on pg. 5*



*Bylaws continued from pg. 4*

Notice of business meetings will be posted in the church at least 30 days before the meetings, and include at least four Sundays. Notice will be published in the newsletter, unless the newsletter is not being published, in which case the notice will be sent via email to everyone with an email address, and by postal mail otherwise. The notice must be sent at least 10 days before the meeting.

Notice of special business meetings must be posted at least 15 days, to include two Sundays in the church. These meetings will be announced by email and postal mail, as above.

Notice of meetings will state the business of the meeting and votes to be taken.

The Winter meeting will have the vote to approve the church budget for the coming year and other business. The Spring meeting will have the vote to elect members of the Governing Board and other business.

Proxy voting will be allowed by written, signed votes, unless the Governing Board prohibits proxy voting on a specific issue. This is a major change from the current bylaws, which prohibit proxy voting. Clearly, we want as many members as possible to participate in the decisions of running the church.



## *Calling All Circles*

### Connections Circle

Notice that our name (Membership, Communication & Growth Circle) has changed to more accurately reflect our goals and our work. We are exploring new ideas as to how we can achieve more “connections” within FUSH and within the community. We would love to have anyone interested join us for our next meeting on Friday, May 10 at 4:00 pm. The present members of our circle are: Joan Fariel, Judy Howland, Bineke Oort, Sue and Dave Taylor, and Nancy Walker.

### **Coffee Hour**

Thank you to all who have hosted the Coffee Hour in March! Chris Husmann, Colleen Spence, Jill and Todd Lloyd, the Youth Groups, Bruce Locke and Clyde Jenne, and Nancy and Glenn Walker worked hard to make sure we could have good conversation, hot coffee, and tasty treats after the services. Those who offered to host in April are: Sue Buckholz (April 7); Nancy Walker, the Connections Circle, and the Congregation (Celebration for Joan and John Keramis on April 14); Joan Fariel, Bridget Fariel, and Amy Nickerson (April 21). We still need a volunteer for April 28.

We appreciate all of your generous hospitality!

### **Goodbye Get-Together for Joan and John Keramis on April 14**

Our long time members, friends and leaders Joan and John Keramis have sold their home and are looking forward to going on the road and exploring the country. We will miss them greatly and hope that they come back to visit often. We will all have a chance to wish them the best on April 14 during Coffee Hour. Nancy Walker is making a special cake and we hope that many people will bring savory appetizers or cookies. In this way everyone can have enough to eat so that they can linger and have time to visit with John and Joan. There will be cards to sign the next few weeks on the red counter behind the coffee hour table.

### **May Day Celebration and Spring Clean-Up**

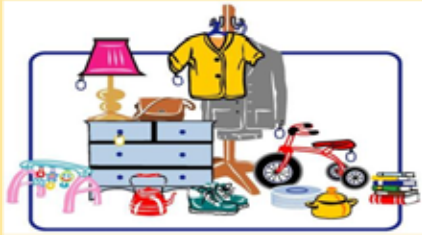
On Sunday, April 28 get your rakes, gloves, and clean-up energy ready to spruce up the outdoors around our Church. We want everything to look really spiffy for our all community open house to celebrate the saving of our steeple. Delicious chili and corn bread will be provided by the Connections Circle and the clean-up run by the Building and Grounds Circle.

### **The History, Theology, and Nuts and Bolts of FUSH**

On Thursday, May 9 at 7:00 pm we will have a discussion for newcomers who want to learn more about our church community and/or are considering membership. The discussion will be led by our minister Paul Sawyer and the Connections Circle.

*FUN RAISER*

**RUMMAGE SALE**



**Friday, April 12**  
8:00 am-6:00 pm

**Saturday, April 13**  
8:00 am-2:00 pm

Saturday will be a bag sale  
for a donation.

We need clothes, linens, bedding,  
books and white elephants.

You may leave your items on the  
parsonage porch or beginning April 7  
you may leave them in the church.

Workers are needed to help organize  
and sort the treasures before the sale on  
the following dates:

April 9, 10:00 am-4:00 pm

April 10, 2:00 pm-6:00 pm

April 11, 10:00 am-4:00 pm and  
6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Workers are also need on  
the days of the sale.

Sign up sheets are at church  
or call Nada Pierce, 802-436-2336

*Calling All Circles*

Capital Campaign Committee

We are happy to report that we have raised \$87,000 (including a state historic grant for \$20,000 and \$5,000 from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation) towards our \$100,000 goal. We are in the last phases of our campaign to raise all the money we need to repair our building and grounds and to have a fund for building maintenance.

Work will begin on the steeple by Jan Lewandoski in March followed by drainage work and the painting of the building. We also hope to have enough funds to refurbish the basement social room.

Once the steeple is down we want to have a celebration to show our appreciation to all those in the community who have supported this effort and been so generous.

**Save the date of Friday, May 31**

for an all community celebration given jointly by  
FUSH and the Hartland Historical Society.

At 6:00 pm after the ringing of our historic bell we will gather around the spire which will be on the ground and have a chance to ask questions of Jan Lewandoski, our steeple jack.

To celebrate this important occasion if anyone has historic clothes of the 1850's you are welcome to wear them. Also, for the cooks at FUSH if you have your grandmother's cook book you are welcome to make dishes which would have been served in the same time period.

Then we will have a potluck buffet for everyone which will be provided by FUSH and the Historical Society. We are also envisioning some music and skits from this historic era when our Church was built. At 7:30 pm we will go to the sanctuary for a slide show and talk by Jan Lewandoski.

We hope everyone can come and we welcome ideas as we are planning the event. If you have ideas please contact: Kim Dittrich, Doug Hart, Judy Howland, Jill Lloyd, Nada Pierce, or Sue and Dave Taylor.



**An Interesting Excerpt from the Vermont Standard Newspaper**

printed on Thursday, February 28, 2013.

100 Years Ago this was posted in the newspaper by our church.

*Hartland Four Corners - Yew are ast to a Poverty Party that us wimmen fokes of the Universalist Sassiety air goin to hev at the Town Hall Tuesday nite. Rewis an Regulashuns. First - Every womin what kums must ware a Poverty dress and apern. Phines will be collected on juilry and onnessessary firbelos. A prize given for the very worstest dress pusson. Dance at five cents a figger. Grand March of the hoboos at 9. Cold vittles, ten cents.*

**Adult Choir** - Rehearsal at 9:00 am on Sunday, April 14 and Sunday, April 21 to sing at the 21st service.

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**Children's Choir** - NO rehearsal April 7. But, there will be a rehearsal on April 28 at 9:30 am to sing that day at the Intergenerational Service.

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**Third Annual Soup Bowl Supper** - April 6 at FUSH from 4:30-6:30 pm. There will be homemade soups, breads and salads.

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**Northern New England District Annual Spring Conference & Business Meeting** - April 12-13, registration deadline is Wednesday, March 27. For more information go to <http://nned.uua.org/>.

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**Unitarian Universalist Association's** (UUA) Board of Trustees authorized the purchase of a new headquarters for the UUA at 24 Farnsworth Street in Boston's Innovation District and the sale of the current Beacon Hill properties. This is truly a historic moment for the UU movement. Visit <http://www.uua.org/> to view a video explaining the update from old to new. (The video feature is on the right side of the website.)

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**Take a mindful journey** with Unitarian Universalists and their friends to India, November 5-18, 2013. Taking a mindful journey is about being alive in the moment, being wide-awake, being present to what is on our path. No better place to do that than India! This will be the Best Exotic Marigold adventure ever! Email [beverlz@me.com](mailto:beverlz@me.com) or see [www.nuuc.ca](http://www.nuuc.ca) Mindful Journeys, for more information. UU Rev. Wayne Walder will accompany us. -- Beverly Carr, Neighbourhood UU Congregation, Toronto, Canada.

### **"Let them eat fruit!"**

Recently a group of community organizers and edible landscape enthusiasts gathered to discuss fruit tree planting as a platform to advance community resilience in the Upper Valley. The Upper Valley Apple Corps (UVAC) fruit tree planting project was created with the goal of planting and caring for 250 fruit trees in visible public locations over the next three years. On May 18 of this year, UVAC aims to plant its first 50 apple, peach and pear trees. This day will be a learning and celebration festival for all involved. Experts will demonstrate proper planting and care of our new trees.

The Apple Corps needs you. Become part of the Apple Corps by sponsoring a tree, providing a site or adopting a tree. To join the organizing group, please contact at the e-mail addresses below and visit us at [www.uvapplecorps.org](http://www.uvapplecorps.org)

Tree sponsorship: A \$50 plus donation pays for the root-stock and soil amendments and also puts your name on a plaque worn by the tree for the first years of its life. Contact Laura Simon at [simonlaura06@gmail.com](mailto:simonlaura06@gmail.com).

Site provision: If you own or oversee a site that could use a beautiful fruit tree(s) please contact David Kano at [davidgkano@gmail.com](mailto:davidgkano@gmail.com).

Tree adoption: Those who water, prune and care for the tree during the tree's first years of life will be listed on the tree's plaque. Tree care instruction will be provided. Please contact Karen Ganey at [karen.ganey@gmail.com](mailto:karen.ganey@gmail.com).

"Plant a fruit tree today, eat pie for decades to come."

Brought to you by your friends from Transition Five Villages & Occupy the Upper Valley: <http://occupyuppervalley.org/>

I hope that we can make this a congregational project, with whomever is interested getting together to plan location, care, etc. of the trees. Please contact me at [sue@buckholzlaw.com](mailto:sue@buckholzlaw.com) if you have interest in participating.

*Sue Buckholz*



## Calendar - April 2013

1	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board meeting
5	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
6	Sat.	4:30-6:30pm	Annual Soup Bowl Supper, FUSH
7	Sun.	10am	Worship Service & RE
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth Grp., FUSH
		6:30-8	Sr. Youth Grp., FUSH
			Mission trip sign up deadline
9	Tues.	10am-4pm	Rummage Sale prep
10	Weds.	2-6pm	Rummage Sale prep
11	Thurs.	10am-4pm	Rummage Sale prep
		6-8	Rummage Sale prep
12	Fri.	8am-6pm	Rummage Sale
13	Sat.	8am-2pm	Rummage Sale
14	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal
		10	Worship Service & RE
18	Thurs.		Newsletter deadline
19	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
21	Sun.	9 am	Adult Choir rehearsal to sing
		10	Worship Service & RE
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth Grp., FUSH
		6:30-8	Sr. Youth Grp., FUSH
26	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
28	Sun.	9:30am	Children's Choir rehearsal to sing
		10	May Day Intergen. Service
		After serv.	Spring clean up



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